



KPL Annual Report 2017–18



Kalamazoo
Public Library



Message from the Director



Ryan Wieber,
Director

It is my pleasure to present the 2017-18 Annual Report of the Kalamazoo Public Library. I hope you find interesting the summary of yearly activities, statistics, and figures, and come away with a glimpse of what the library undertook during the year.

Programming highlights for the year included 2017's *Build a Better World Summer Reading Challenge*, *Reading Together* featuring author Matthew Desmond's *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, *Musical Storybooks*, *Welcome to Kalamazoo 1917*, several popular author visits and monthly book discussions, the annual Kalamazoo Public Schools' first-grade visits, *Global Reading Challenge*, *GeekFest*, *The Teen Filmmaker Festival*, 21st Annual *Party in the Park*, language classes, *Overdue Brew*, *Ask a Lawyer*, *Friends of KPL* book sales, and so much more!

Kalamazoo Public Library strives to provide resources, programs, and services that are beneficial and impactful to its entire community, and sometimes that means taking the library outside of KPL's facilities to meet patrons where **they** are. The most recent survey on public libraries from the Pew Research Center (2016) found that only 53%

of Americans had some interaction with a public library during the previous year, and that 19% of those surveyed had **never** visited a public library. KPL seeks to remove barriers to access, encourage more library usage among Kalamazoo residents, and find new opportunities to instill an appreciation for today's public library and all it offers. The library has partnered with many local organizations, schools, and non-profits to experiment and discover useful ways to introduce library services and programs to people who may be a part of the 19% who never visit a library, or those who may face difficulties in arriving at a library building.

Highlighted within this annual report are examples of how KPL has creatively brought the library to the community. The objective in reaching out is not to increase library-use statistics and create feel-good stories, but for KPL to most effectively fulfill its expected role as a leader in literacy appreciation and development, and as an organization that is responsive to the needs of neighborhoods and residents. With that said, a lot of good work has taken place, yet we also know there are many great opportunities still to be discovered, and many miles to go. 📖



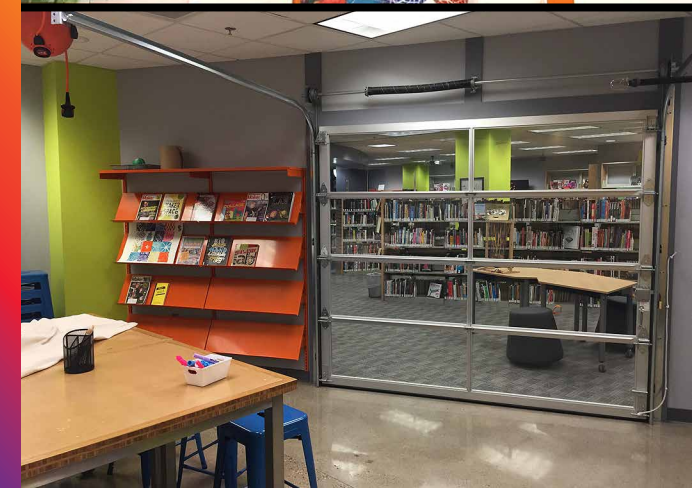
New Teen Studio Space at Central

In January 2018, KPL opened **The Studio** at our Central Library Teen location. The goal was to provide a collaborative, creative space for teens in grades 6–12. This project reimaged existing office and storage space into a flexible programming room equipped with a garage door, maker tables, and storage for supplies. Having The Studio adjacent to the Teen collection and the Teen staff offices, means that teens are able to discover an activity when they drop in to check out books or use the computers. Having programs happening in close physical proximity to supply storage is also very efficient for Teen and facilities staff. Both set-up and clean-up times are significantly reduced, allowing us to offer programs more frequently and begin offering consistent afterschool drop-in programs.

Since The Studio has been open, Teen staff have hosted **130+ programs** in The Studio. Highlights include virtual reality gaming, arts and crafts programs, and self-care sessions, but the space can be used for anything teens would like to learn. For the first time, we were able to offer a more in-depth learning with our 3-day *Summer Studio Camps*. Visiting artists

taught youth to screen print, to write and illustrate books, to make books by hand, and to create block prints on fabric and paper. We've also hosted many partner organizations and artists for programs in the The Studio including Rootead, Kalamazoo Glass Arts, Kalamazoo Book Arts Center, the Air Zoo, Binder Park Zoo, ASK Family Services, Kalamazoo County Youth Cabinet, and more. Finally, the The Studio has made a great addition to our school and youth program field trip offerings. When groups of youth come to KPL for a field trip, they are given a tour of the whole building, a close-up tour of the Teen collection, and time in The Studio to make a quick craft or participate in an activity. We often receive notes of gratitude for all of the resources available to students and the The Studio is always a highlight for youth.

The uses and impact of Central Library's The Studio continue to grow as time goes on. We can't wait to see what creative ideas, friendships, and community connections youth will create in 2019. 📸





Outreach — Loy Norrix Young Moms & More

Loy Norrix Childcare and KPL Support

First hour starts early: 7:35 a.m. to be exact. It can be hard to get to school on time some days. But what about if you're getting yourself AND your infant ready for school every day? Some teens do just that. And since 2010, teens enrolled in Loy Norrix's first hour parenting class have had monthly visits from a KPL children's librarian. Teacher Cindy Goss welcomes the librarian to her classroom as another adult sharing the message about the importance of **reading, writing, talking, singing, and playing** with the very young children of the students in the class. Students are also parents and most of their children attend school right along with them. Loy Norrix has a childcare center on campus; a preschool room which is open to the public, and an infant and toddler room which is only for the children of enrolled students. The KPL librarian shares information about speech and language development, or talks about books and reading, usually while the students make handmade toys that they can take home to use with their babies. Time is always left at the end to go into the childcare center to try out the new toys with the babies before the end of class. Each visit, students receive a free book for their baby, a gift from the library's *Ready to Read* program. Taking the library into the community is an important part of the work done by Youth Services librarians ... even when it means showing up for first hour! 📖

Storytimes Reach Out

Several years ago, we made a hard decision to discontinue storytimes at the Washington Square Branch because of years of low attendance. Where had all the children gone? Preschool, of course. A good place to be. So we decided to take storytime to the preschools. This will be the third year that we have provided storytimes at nine separate locations, including Head Start classes, the Learning Village, and the Loy Norrix Preschool. Through this outreach, we have shared early literacy education, a love of books and songs, and a connection to the library with over 150 preschoolers, most of whom live in the Edison Neighborhood. This is another way the library is adapting its services to have a greater impact in the community. Singing the ABC song opera-style, showing Honey Bear how to hold a book right side up, and predicting what will happen in a story are all ways the kids of Kalamazoo get ready for kindergarten and ready to read with the help of KPL. 📖

Outreach: Immigrant & Law Library Services

Summer ESL classes

Oshtemo Library partnered with Kalamazoo Refugee Resource Collaborative and the American Red Cross of Southwest Michigan to offer summer English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for adults, with childcare provided, in July–August 2017.

This project was funded with grants from Western Michigan University and Friends of the Kalamazoo Public Library. 94% of students showed improvement in their skills, based on pre- and post-testing; 6% of students remained the same.

After the success of Oshtemo Library's *Meet Your Muslim Neighbor* event in May 2017, Oshtemo Library staff helped organize similar events at Parchment Community Library in November 2017, Kalamazoo Islamic Center in April 2018, and Portage District Library in May 2018.

In December 2017, Oshtemo Library hosted an information forum with Michigan Immigrant Rights Center managing attorney Susan Reed to explain issues related to the Muslim travel ban and DACA. This event was livestreamed on the library's Facebook page and received over 1,000 views.

In April 2018, with funding from Friends of the Kalamazoo Public Library, Oshtemo Library hosted a series of basic Arabic language classes for refugee co-sponsors and service providers to help break down language and communication barriers. 📺

New Immigration Clinic

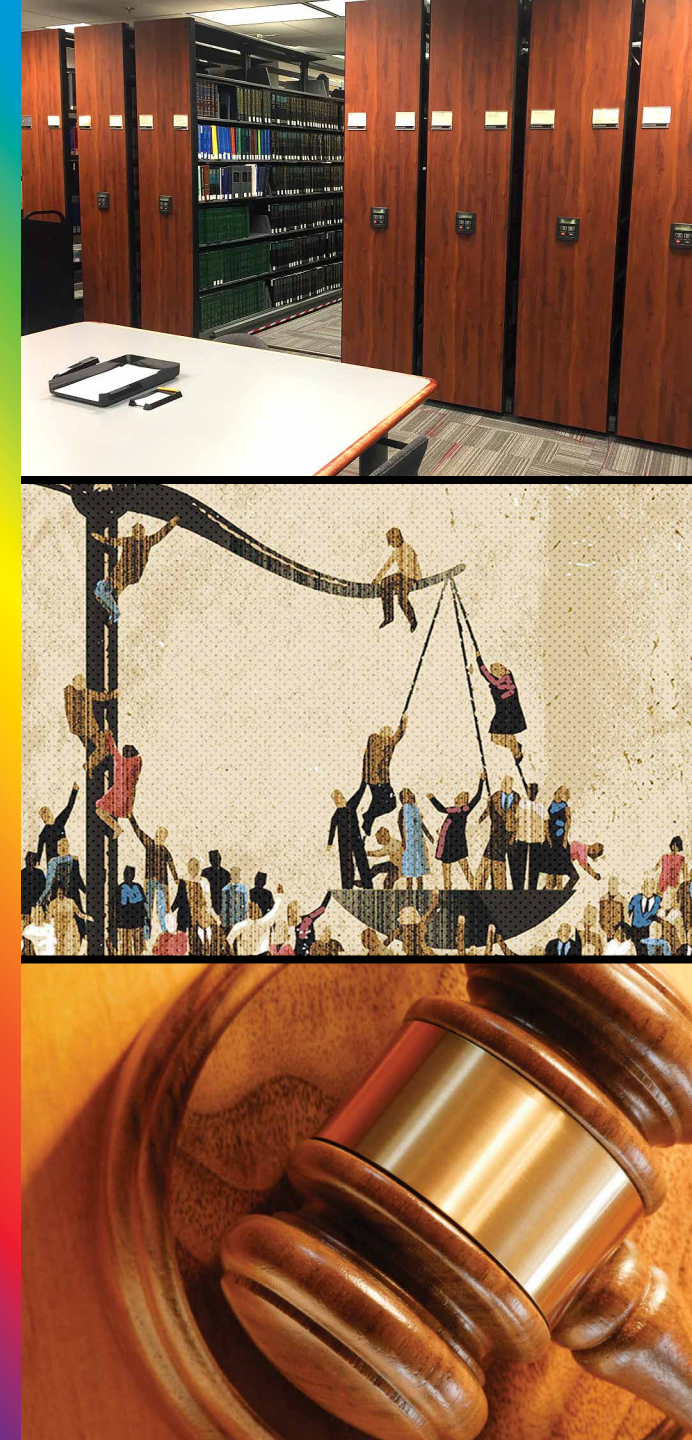
In 2018, the Law Library began offering an Immigration clinic. It's a new partnership with Justice for Neighbors Michigan, a nonprofit organization dedicated to welcoming immigrants into our community by providing high-quality immigration legal services, education, and advocacy. The Law Library clinics are monthly, family-based immigration legal clinics for low-income individuals. In a 20–30 minute appointment, an attorney provides limited advice, additional resources and/or referrals.

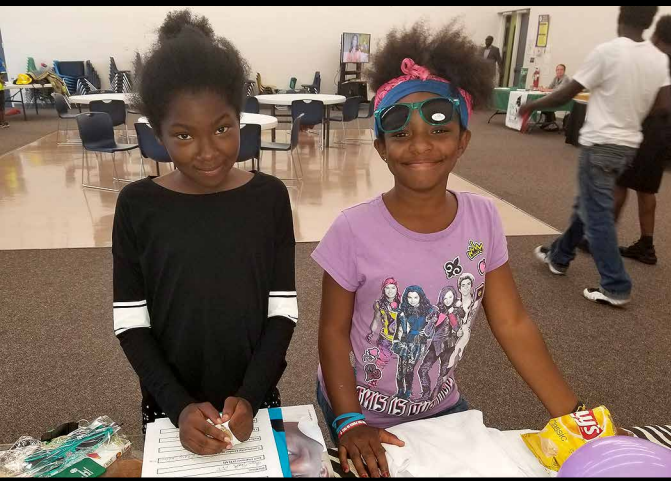
The Law Library received the local *Liberty Bell Award* from the Kalamazoo Bar Association for organizing and supporting the *Ask a Lawyer* program — we offered approximately 90 clinics!

Our partnerships include The Kalamazoo Bar Association, The Kalamazoo Family Bar Association, Kalamazoo County Government, Justice for Our Neighbors Michigan, and the Portage Community Center. 📺

KPL created a pamphlet featuring Kalamazoo-area immigration legal resources in fall 2017.

The Law Library assisted approximately 2,300 people with over 4,100 questions.





Outreach – Community



Friendship Village

KPL staff are happy to serve patrons who enjoy reading and participating in library activities, but who may have difficulty visiting a branch. Staff visit Friendship Village Senior Living Community in Oshtemo Township twice each month to provide library services, including finding and recommending books, assisting with technology questions, and holding book discussions. KPL provides Friendship Village with a rotating collection of 100 large-print books every three months. In 2017-18, embedded library staff answered over 300 technology questions, led 10 book discussions, and mailed library materials to over 40 Friendship Village residents. Also, Kiva Auditorium at Friendship Village was the host site of a forum for the 2018 Reading Together book by Matthew Desmond. 📖



The Late Show at Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home

Now in its 26th year, the *Late Show* is an innovative bedtime reading program on two or three nights a week at the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home. The purpose of the program is to bring a sense of comfort and calm to teen residents at bedtime by reading aloud to them, and to expose them to well-written literature. Volunteer readers read over the intercom system to teens in their rooms, from about 9–9:30 p.m. The success of this program depends on the strong partnership with the staff at the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home, and on the group of 70 volunteer readers. In 2018, 70 active readers presented 112 readings to 2,880 teens. 📖

Washington Square Branch reaches out into the Edison community by delivering a monthly collection of books and materials to the Boys and Girls Club, Peace House, and 1st grade classes at El Sol Elementary.



Reading Together 2018 — Matthew Desmond

What is *Reading Together*?

The purpose of *Reading Together* is to build a stronger community with deeper connections through the common experience of reading the same book and exploring its themes together. When we do that, we engage and learn, not only about ourselves, but more importantly about each other and the world around us.

By experiencing the same book, hearing the author of that work speak right here in Kalamazoo, and delving deeper into the books' themes, we are able to embrace our similarities and differences from a common point of reference.

Very simply, when we read together, we grow together.

The 2018 selection *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* by Matthew Desmond, represents the single highest circulating *Reading Together* title in the history of the program. Local programs discussed tenant and landlord issues as well as information about the eviction process in Kalamazoo. But the highlight was Matthew Desmond's compelling and engaging presentation at Chenery Auditorium. 2017 marked the 15th anniversary of Reading Together which was observed with the very special appearance in Kalamazoo of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, author of *Writings on the Wall: Searching for a New Equality Beyond Black and White*, our selected title for that year. 📖

Community Responses Regarding Impact & Action:

"Have gained a broader understanding of the far-reaching impact on both individuals and our society of the grim realities of eviction ..."

"I am convinced we need to provide housing for all citizens."

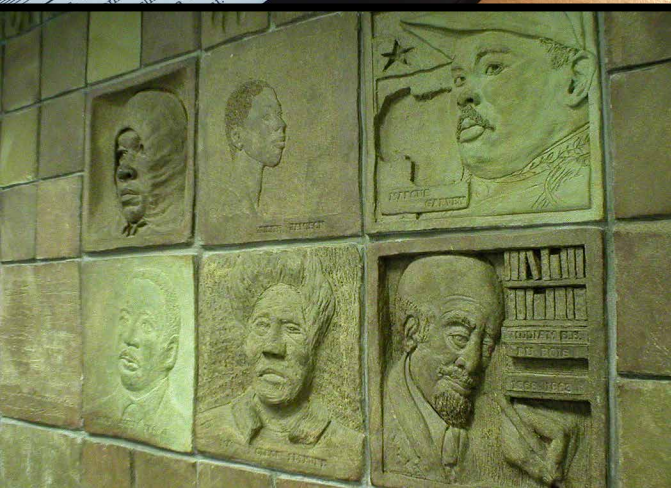
"Will support and work for political candidates that understand and will fund excellent low-income housing."

Total attendance: 1,648!

Chenery attendance: 900!

**30% increase in circulation over *Writings on the Wall* in 2017. | 90% print
10% digital**





Urban Fiction, Kindles, & Chromebooks

Urban Fiction Kindles at POW

In 2016, KPL did an analysis of Overdrive users and found that the 49007 zip code was underserved when it came to our eBook and eAudiobook services. In response, KPL and the Friends of the Library partnered to purchase 20 Kindles and preloaded them with current Urban Fiction titles, making them available to the *Urban Fiction Book Club* members at the Alma Powell Branch. In late 2017 The *Urban Fiction Book Club* members were surveyed, and combined with survey results and circulation statistics, the program was considered a success. As a result, more Kindles were purchased for circulation at the Powell Branch and overall usage continues to grow. 📖

Currently, the Kindles
have circulated
450 times!

Over 200
additional
patrons now
have access
to the digital
world with
Chromebooks.

Chromebooks at WSQ

In 2017, Washington Square started loaning out a small number of Chromebooks for in-library use and soon doubled the available number to eight within a year. The branch does not have extra space to add desktop computers, but found that patron demand exceeded the nine wired computers provided. So staff decided to try offering Chromebooks to patrons when the desktop workstations were full. Patrons quickly latched onto the idea of utilizing portable internet stations during busy periods. The Chromebooks are a big draw for the after-school crowd, and are also greatly appreciated by all age groups. Additionally, some patrons prefer using a laptop and sitting in a comfy chair by the window. Over 200 additional patrons now have access to the digital world and the library rarely has to limit anyone's time. The staff at Washington Square loves that they are able to offer this technology and provide better service, rather than turning patrons away during the late afternoon rush! 📖



Friends of the Kalamazoo Public Library

Supporting Your Library Since 1959

The Friends of the Kalamazoo Public Library is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the library as an essential institution in our community.

The Friends is governed by an elected board with two part-time employees and more than 300 dues-paying members.

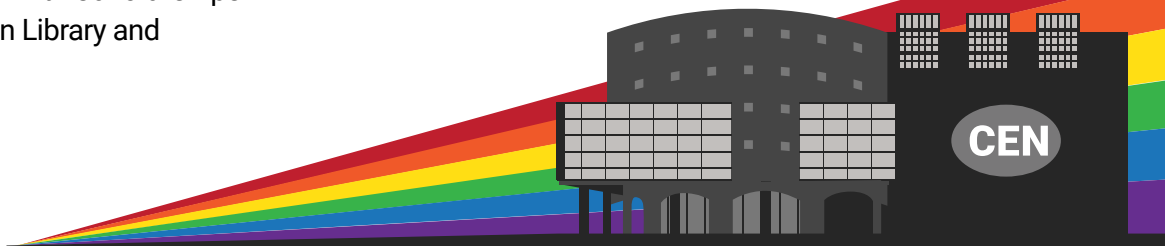
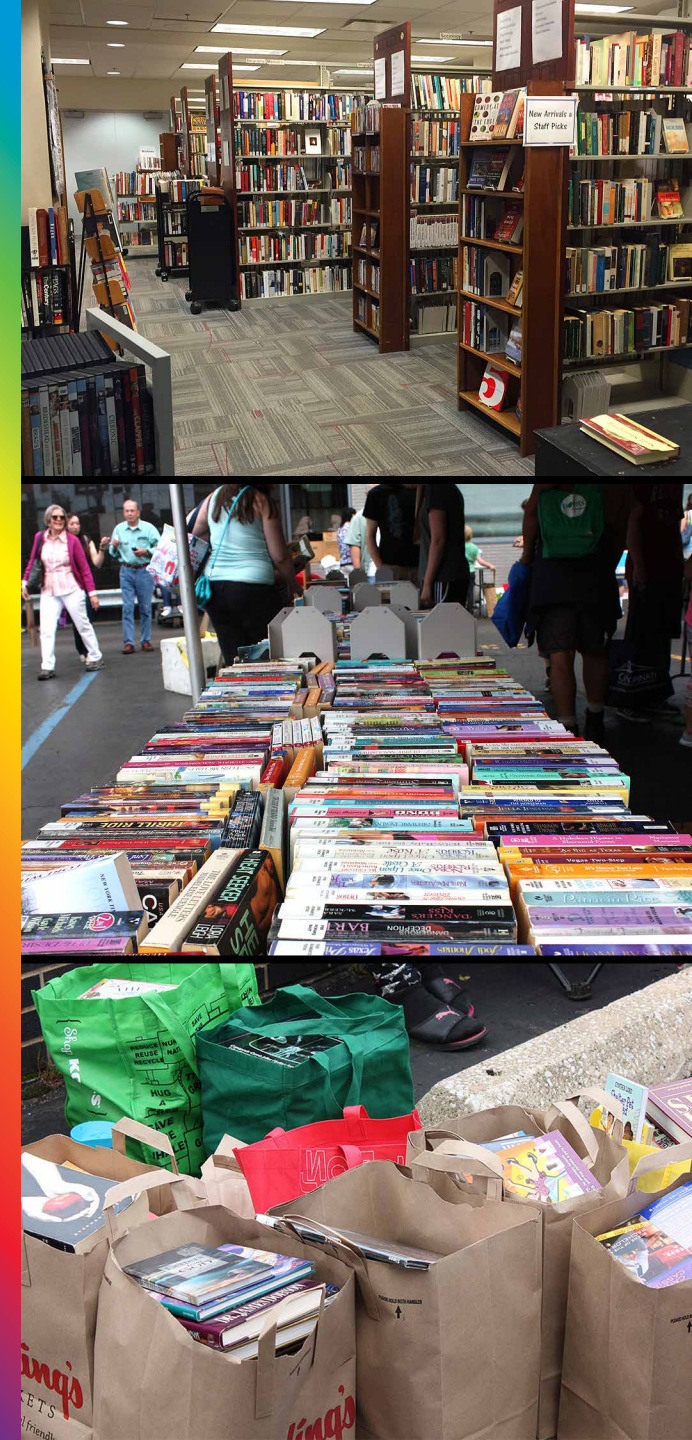
The Friends encourages literacy while providing ongoing support to many Kalamazoo Public Library programs and services.

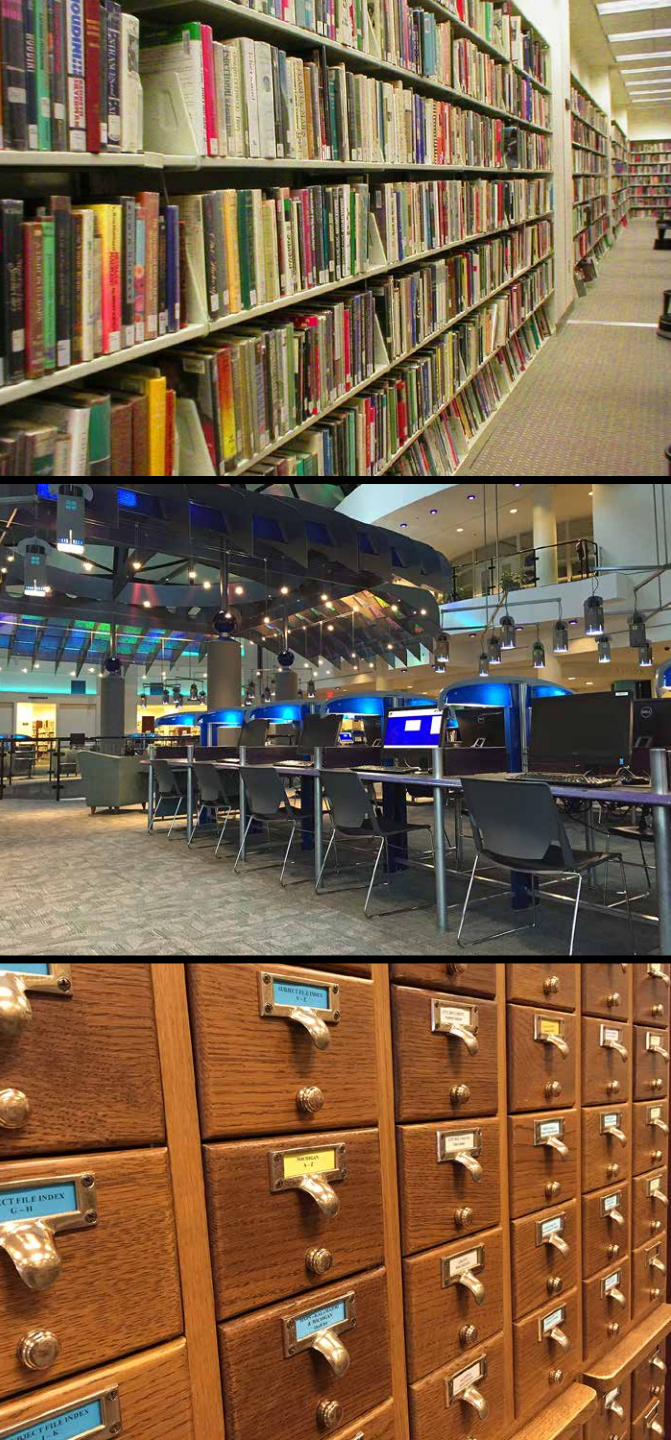
Each year, the Friends tirelessly work to sort through thousands of gently-used donated items which are then made available to KPL visitors at exceptionally affordable prices. In addition to operating the bookstore on the lower level of Central Library four days a week, the Friends offer quarterly bag-of-books sales where visitors receive even deeper discounts on an enormous variety of books, movies, audiobooks, music, and more.

The Friends of KPL support the library through generous annual donations as well as mini-grant and scholarship offerings for KPL staff. Mini-grants provide funding for staff-developed initiatives such as programming and resources for immigrant populations, the purchase of musical instruments for the Children's Room, and funding for unique and innovative partnerships. In 2018, the Friends of KPL provided three library staff with scholarships towards their pursuit of their Master's Degree in Library and Information Sciences. 📖



The Friends encourages literacy while providing ongoing support to many KPL programs and services.





KPL Statistics for 2017–18

Total Circulation	2017–18	2016–17	2015–16
Books & eBooks	863,848	860,610	873,860
Audiobooks	84,725	70,819	60,748
Music	73,389	81,230	90,557
Video	608,522	640,632	650,255

Circulation by Branch	Central	Oshtemo	WSQ	Eastwood	Powell	Digital
Books & eBooks	446,891	258,283	41,499	28,109	10,064	79,002
Audiobooks	16,826	9,844	927	837	380	55,911
Music	35,429	7,685	4,430	1,754	982	23,109
Video	330,307	104,464	76,451	45,543	40,776	10,981

PCs & WiFi	2017–18	2016–17	2015–16
Public PC Use	111,884 Sessions	113,284	110,598
WiFi Connections	28,977 Sessions	31,104	24,549
Website Traffic	4,756,355	5,423,400	2,552,280

Database Use	2017–18	2016–17	2015–16
Sessions	13,041	13,693	12,520
Searches	354,481	450,800	509,773

KPL Statistics for 2017-18 p2

Program Stats	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Adult Programs	387	195	272
Adult Attendance	12,001	11,513	10,226
Teen Programs	252	321	209
Teen Attendance	8,355	8,768	6,759
Youth Programs	1,645	1,551	1,116
Youth Attendance	43,202	42,461	37,937

Program Stats by Branch	Central	Oshtemo	WSQ	Eastwood	Powell
Adult Programs	265	56	30	11	25
Adult Attendance	7,994	1,918	955	405	729
Teen Programs	153	37	8	18	36
Teen Attendance	7,272	454	100	147	382
Youth Programs	426	401	206	410	202
Youth Attendance	18,968	9,333	4,747	5,644	4,500

Law Library	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Visitors	2,898	3,061	3,020
Phone Calls	1,817	1,539	1,324
Questions Answered	5,507	4,787	4,729

Patron Visits 2017-18

Central
332,943

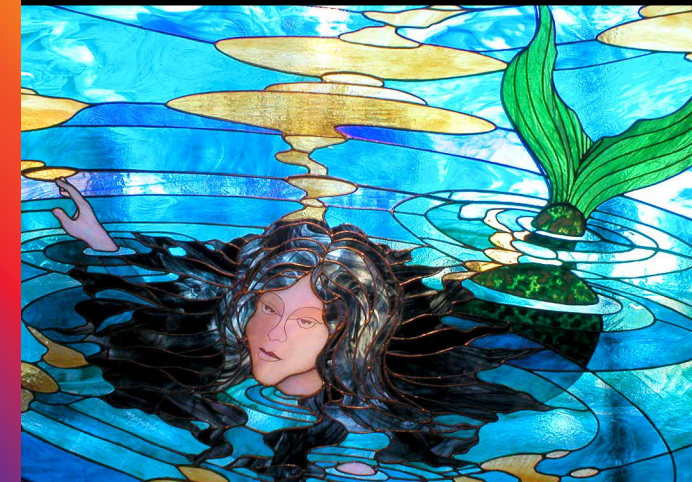
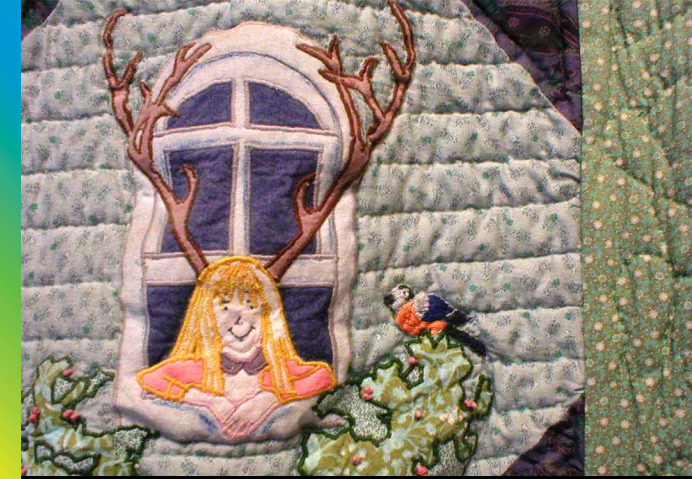
Oshtemo
124,487

WSQ
39,588

Eastwood
23,150

Powell
38,495

Total
558,663!





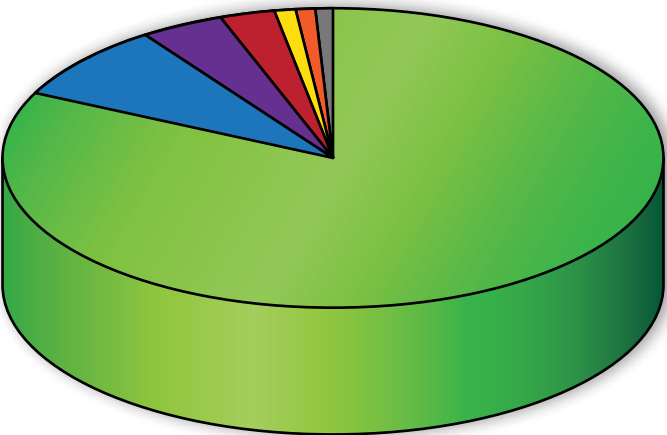
KPL Statistics for 2017–18 p3

 <p>KPL's Digital Lab</p> <p>Visitors 1,177</p> <p>3D Printer Projects 132</p> <p>Digitization Projects 552</p> <p>Production Projects 493</p>	 <p>KPL hosted 162 Community Events for area businesses and nonprofits</p>	 <p>Raised \$18,100 for early literacy programs</p>	 <p>Challenged 17 Schools & 1,038 Kids</p>	 <p>90 Entries & 200 Attendees</p>
 <p>ready to read</p> <p>Gift books distributed to early literacy partners & children ages 0–5: 13,686</p>	 <p>Annual event of volunteers reading books to children in Bronson Park, while in character, reached: 1,600 Kids</p>	 <p>Participation 46 Teens & Tweens</p>	 <p>Summer Reading Challenge 5,513 Readers</p>	 <p>575 Attendees</p>

Financials for Fiscal Year 2017–18

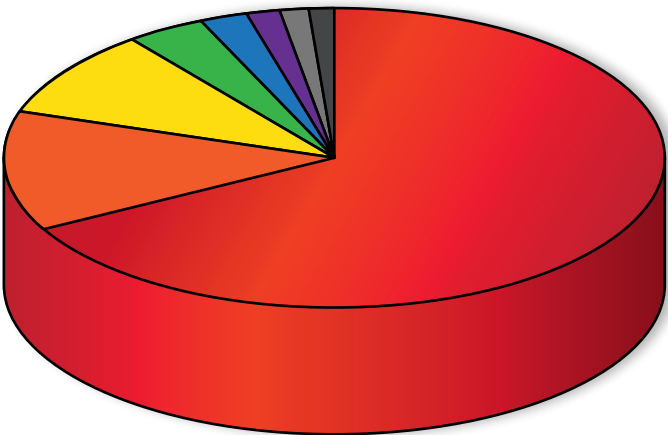
Revenue

Property Taxes	\$10,855,903
State Aid	\$1,051,314
Grants and Memorials	\$592,516
Investment Income	\$474,962
District Court Penal Fines	\$139,847
Library Fines and Fees	\$129,359
Other	\$109,573
<hr/>	
Total Revenue.....	\$13,353,474



Expenditures

Salaries & Benefits	\$7,599,778
Library Books and Materials	\$1,197,146
Technical & Purchased Services	\$1,173,411
Facilities Maintenance & Repair	\$564,154
Capital Outlay	\$318,041
Operating	\$283,573
Programming	\$208,275
Other	\$195,663
<hr/>	
Total Expenses	\$11,540,041





KPL Board Details, Branch & Contact Info

KPL Board of Directors, 2017–18

President	James E. VanderRoest Term: 2018
Vice President	Valerie L. Wright Term: 2018
Treasurer	Robert Paul Brown Term: 2020
Secretary	Jannie Williams Term: 2020
Trustee	Lisa Godfrey Term: 2020
Trustee	Kerria Randolph Term: 2018
Trustee	Cheryl TenBrink Term: 2020

Purpose, Vision, Values

Purpose

To be a place for everyone to explore, discover, and engage.

Vision

A community distinguished by curiosity and inspired by our collaborative connections to one another and the world.

Values

Community

We stand together to serve, to learn, and to create

Compassion

We extend welcome to all and provide a safe environment in which to connect and explore

Equal & Open Access

We ensure our community's access to shared information

Intellectual Freedom

We champion everyone's right to receive and impart information and ideas through any media



Central
315 S. Rose St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
(269) 553-7800

Eastwood
1112 Gayle Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49048
(269) 553-7810

Oshemo
7265 W Main St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
(269) 553-7980

Alma Powell
1000 W. Paterson St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
(269) 553-7960

Washington Square
1244 Portage St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
(269) 553-7970



Kalamazoo
Public Library

Organized in 1860 and opened to the general public in 1872, Kalamazoo Public Library now serves a district population of 116,000 through five locations plus multiple outreach ventures. Many Southwest Michigan residents use Kalamazoo Public Library through reciprocal agreements with neighboring libraries.

kpl.gov

